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Antique Vehicle License Plates

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Jesse White
Secretary of State

A Message from Jesse White:

Dear Friends:

Serving the public and the interests of Illinois families has always been my top priority, whether it was as a state representative, the Cook County recorder of deeds or the founder of the Jesse White Tumbling Team. As your new Illinois Secretary of State, I am just as committed to providing friendly and efficient service to the citizens of this state.

Whether it means cutting bureacratic red tape, making sure our employees are qualified and courteous or in some other way going that extra mile to get the job done, keep one thing in mind: we're here to serve you.

In that same spirit, the Illinois Secretary of State's office will continue to offer antique license plates designed for antique car owners, a special group of individuals whose interest in America's history is shown through the cars they have preserved. Vanity and personalized plates are also available to antique vehicle owners for the appropriate fee. Applying for the antique vehicle plates is as easy as submitting the appropriate license plate application and fee along with a statement verifying the use and condition of your vehicle.

Sincerely,

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Q. How old must a vehicle be in order to be eligible for antique vehicle license plates?

A. Motor vehicles (including motorcycles) or bona fide replicas must be more than 25 years old. Firefighting vehicles must be at least 20 years old.

Q. What is the difference between a bona fide replica and a facsimile?

A. A bona fide replica is an **exact** copy of the original in design, frame and mechanical operation. A facsimile is a close but not exact reproduction of the original; some contemporary parts are used. Because facsimilies are not **exact** reproductions, they **do not** qualify for antique vehicle plates.

Q. What restrictions are placed on vehicles displaying the plates?

A. 1) These vehicles may be driven on the highways **only** to and from an antique auto show or exhibition, service station or demonstration.

2) The mechanical and physical condition *(including brakes, lights, glass and appearance)* of these vehicles must be the same or as safe as originally equipped.

Q. What is the registration period for these plates?

A. The plates are issued for a five-year registration period expiring Dec. 31, 1999.

Q. What documents are needed when applying for the plates?

A. 1) Affirmation of use and condition of antique motor vehicle.

2) Application for title and/or registration with fee and current ID Card or assigned title.

If the vehicle is already titled in your name, send a copy of the title, not the original.

If a title is not available, contact the Non-Standard Plates Section to inquire about an alternative method of obtaining a title.

Q. May I display historical license on my antique vehicle?

A. Yes. Historical plates representing the model year of the vehicle may be displayed, provided the owner has valid and current antique license plates. The plates and registration card must be carried at all time in the vehicle.

Q. How many plates am I eligible to receive?

A. One set is allowed for each qualified vehicle.

Q. May I obtain the plates during the five-year registration period if I have a vehicle currently registered with other license plates?

A. Yes. Use the date that your application was submitted to our office to determine the proper fee.

Q. May I obtain the plates during the five-year registration period if I have a vehicle that was previously registered in another state?

A. Yes. Use the date that your application for title and registration was submitted to our office to determine the proper fee.

Q. May I obtain the plates during the five-year registration period if I have recently purchased a vehicle?

A. Yes. Use the date of purchase to determine the proper fee.

Q. May I personalize my antique license plate?

A. Yes. Vanity and personalized plates are available as follows:

Vanity

Definition: License plates containing one, two or three numbers only or three through seven letters only.

Antique Vehicle: Numbers -1 through 999; Letters - three through seven.

Antique Motorcycle: Numbers - 1 through 999; Letters-three through five.

Fees: The initial fee is $75 for Antique Vehicle and $40 for Antique Motorcycle. These fees are in addition to the regular registration fee. A $10 surcharge is assessed to the renewal fee.

Personalized

Definition: License plates containing both letters and numbers.

Antique Vehicle: Numbers and Letters-1 through 999 plus three letters; 1 through 99 plus four letters; 1 through 9 plus five letters.

Antique Motorcycle: Numbers and Letters-1 through 99 plus three letters; 1 through 9 plus four letters

Fees: For vehicles that are currently registered with antique plates, the fee is $11 for Antique Vehicle and $9 for Antique Motorcycle plates.

For newly acquired vehicles, only the antique registration fee is required, plus $13 if title related.

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Registration Fees

If vehicle registered during	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year	Fifth Year
Fee is:	$25	$20	$15	$10	$5

NOTE: The fee for an Illinois title is not included in the above fees.

Applications

To obtain an antique vehicle affirmation and the appropriate license plate application, go to the nearest Secretary of State driver's license facility, or call or write to:

Secretary of State
Non-Standard Plates Section
539 Howlett Building
Springfield, IL 62756
(217) 782-2402

Mandatory Vehicle Insurance

All motor vehicles registered and operated in Illinois must be covered by liability insurance — insurance that covers the property damage and/or injuries you may cause others in an accident.

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